

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit: July 20, 2004

By: Sharanda Mozart
Sharanda Mozart

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 27435.002

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Madam:

In compliance with Applicants' duty of candor and good faith in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97, and §1.98, Applicants file this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 listing references of which Applicants are aware.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted:

within 3 months of the filing date under 1.97(b)(1)

1.97(e) X within 3 months of receipt of an international search report under

prior to the first office action on the merits under 1.97(b)(3)

within the time frame specified in 1.97(c)

Also enclosed is/are:

Certification for information submitted during the time period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and/or (d) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

check in the amount of the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for information submitted during the time period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)

petition requesting consideration of information submitted during the time period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2)(ii)

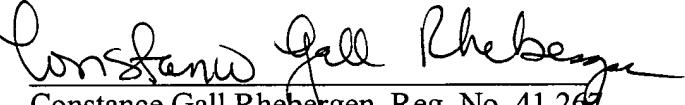
check in the amount of the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)

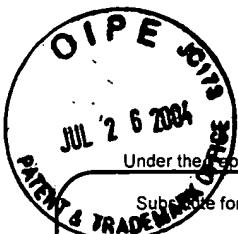
stamped, self-addressed postcard acknowledging receipt of this paper and the other paper(s) marked with an "x" in the above list.

Please return the enclosed postcard, properly date stamped, to the undersigned attorney for Applicants upon receipt of the enclosures. No fees are believed due as this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is filed within 3 months of receipt of an international search report under 1.97(e). In the event a fee is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P., Deposit Account 50-0259 (27435.002) in the amount of any deficiency.

Date: July 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


Constance Gall Rhebergen, Reg. No. 41,267
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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/768,613
Filing Date	01/30/04
First Named Inventor	Defalco, Frank G.
Art Unit	1761
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	27435.002

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	C	EP1,101,837 A1	05-23-2001	Curro et al.		
	D	JP7166366A abstract	06-27-1995	Kawasaki Steel		
	E	JP62190297A abstract	08-20-1987	Johnson KK		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. **¹** Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). **²** See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. **³** Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). **⁴** For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. **⁵** Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. **⁶** Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.